

REMARKS

Claims 7-24, and 26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claim 25 and amends claim 7, 21-24, and 26.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Coleman in the July 22 personal interview. Applicant incorporates a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-10, 12, 13, 21, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,587,343 to Kano et al. (hereinafter "Kano"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As agreed during the personal interview, Kano does not disclose a thermo-optical switch. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 7 and 21 to recite a thermo optical switch. Thus, the rejection of claims 7 and 21, and claims 8-10, 12, 13, 22, and 24 that respectively depend from claims 7 and 21, is moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

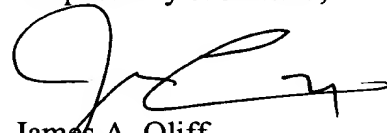
The Office Action rejects claims 14-20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kano in view of U.S. Patent 6,407,851 to Islam et al. (hereinafter "Islam"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As agreed during the personal interview, there is no motivation to combine Kano and Islam in such a manner that teaches or suggests the claimed thermo-optical switch. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7-26.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/tea

Date: July 23, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--